

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02096 051538Z

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5031

UNCLAS PRAOUE 2096

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC CZ

SUBJ: EXCHANGES - RESEARCH SCHOLAR NOMINEE FERUS

REF: STATE 174540

1. AFTER EXAMINATION OF GRANT IN LIGHT OF REFTEL WE REAMIN CONVINCED THAT FERUS GRANT NOMINATION FULLY CONSISTENT WITH OVERALL BFS OBJECTIVES. WE ALSO REMAIN CONVINCED THAT APPROVING FERUS GRANT WILL IN NO WAY ESTABLISH UNDERSIRABLE PRECEDENT FOR POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE FORMAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN THE FUTURE.

2. WE APPRECIATE BFS CHAIRMAN BILLINGTON'S BASIC VIEWS. WE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT HE AND OTHERS CONCERNED WOULD APPROACH FERUS NOMINATION FROM STANDPOINT OF WHAT FERUS WISHES TO STUDY RATHER THAN POSITION HE HOLDS. BILLINGTON IS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT THAT PROFESSIONAL VERSUS ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS OFTEN BLURRED IN EE ((AS CASE WITH CZECH AND SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCE) MEMBERS, AS ELSEWHERE. DESPITE FACT HE IS HIGH-RANKING MINISTRY OFFICIAL WE ARE CONFIDENT FERUS WILL CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACADEMIC LITERATURE IN HIS FIELD AND THEREBY PROMOTE EXPANDING ACADEMIC, AND PROFESSIONAL, INTEREST IN AMERICAN MANAGEMENT STUDIES. WE REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT FERUS SABBATICAL SHOULD GENERATE PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF WHAT HE STUDIES, WHICH IS ONLY NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF ACADEMIC INQUIRY.

3. IN RESPONSE TO BILLINGTON'S CONCERN REGARDING GENESIS OF FERUS GRANT, EMBOFF SUGGESTED PROGRAM ON BASIS OF JUDGMENT THAT FIELD OF ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT REPRESENTED VALID AREA FOR
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SUPPORT AND OF FERUS' STANDING AND QUALIFICATIONS. AS FOR

QUESTION OF GRANT'S EFFECTS ON ACADEMICS, EVEN IF HIS
NOMINATION BECAME WIDELY KNOWN, WHICH IS DOUBTFUL, IT
WOULD MORE LIKELY BE TAKEN AS A SIGN OF WARMING RELATIONS
WITH U.S.

4. THOUGH FERUS MEETS CRITERIA AS DISCUSSED REFTTEL, WE ARE
AWARE THAT DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS MAY UNFORTUNATELY RESULT
IN HIS GRANT'S NOT BEING ACCEPTED. IN THAT EVENT WE PROPOSE
FERUS BE CONSIDERED FOR GRANT FOR THREE-TO-FOUR-MONTH OBSERVATION/
CONSULTATION VISIT UNDER DEPARTMENT FUNDING.

5. APPRECIATE YOUR ADVISING US ASAP OF RESOLUTION.
WORTZEL

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